

Rainford Eagle and Child Crown Green Bowling Club

Minutes from the Annual General Meeting (held at the Eagle & Child on 16th February 2026)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7pm.

Members observed a period of silence in remembrance of past members (specifically Frances Owen and Dave Hughes in the last 12 months).

Apologies offered from Paul Melling, Derek Hillier, James and Kathy Burkhill

Chairman's Comments

A series of thanks for supporting the Club over the last 12 months :

- All members
- Peter and Siobhan (landlord/landlady)
- All Team Captains (and deputies were applicable) - named individually
- The Secretary and Treasurer

A run down of our 9 competitive team performances in 2025

1st Place - Aughton League

2nd Place - St Helens Pensioners League A Team (division one)

2nd Place - St Helens Pensioners League B team (division three) and promotion to division two

2nd Place - Westhead League

3rd Place - Orrell League

3rd Place - St Helens League B Team (division three) and promotion to division two (reshuffle)

4th Place - Newton League (division B)

5th Place - Formby League (division one)

8th Place - St Helens League A Team (division one)

Also congratulations to Mike Cox on winning the Bleasdale Cup (singles) in the Aughton League and Steve Johnson for achieving "player of the year" (best averages) in the Formby League division one.

A few general updates regarding the Club ...

We will be investing time updating and relaunching the Club's website to enable improved information flow to our members and the wider promotion of the Club. Jonathan Fenney has kindly volunteered to get involved in this and we offer our thanks. The aim is to relaunch the website for the beginning of the competitive season.

We are exploring the possibility of using "Easyfunding" as a method of additional fundraising for the Club. In addition to providing the facility for individual donations it can also be used for indirect donations generated by simply shopping at various stores/online sites - importantly at no additional cost to the "customer". We will update members with our progress here and if successful we will provide instructions how to set this up for yourselves, family and friends if you/they choose to do so.

It is a BCGBA requirement that every Club in the UK has a nominated/designated Safeguarding Officer (DBS certificate). Failure to comply would result in a fine. Geoff Lambert has kindly been ours for a while now and the current Certificate expires in February 2027. Given Geoff is also the Treasurer and a Team Captain we are looking for a member to volunteer to take this important but relatively resource light function over next year. Please reach out to any Committee member if you feel you would like to help out with this in the future.

Secretary's Report

Sincere thanks was offered to our Greenkeeper, Craig Punshon, for all his work, research and passion throughout 2025.

Further thanks to John Pickavance and Alan Oakes for all their work in and around the green during 2025.

The secretary summarised the Greenkeeper Report. Highlights included recovery work done last year to combat one of the driest/hottest periods in many years, details of the winter programme of work and planned green work through 2026.

The Greenkeeper advised he will be looking to open the green on Saturday 21st March 2026 - subject to weather spells in the meantime.

A request to all the Captains - please advise Craig if you need to re-arrange a match to enable him to include in his work schedule.

Thanks were offered to all members who supported the 4 internal competitions the Club held in 2025 and also offered congratulations to the winners.

Dates for these competitions this year are :

John Bancroft Trophy	Sunday 31st May 2026
Dennis Houghton Trophy	Sunday 28th June 2026
Past Players Trophy	Sunday 9th August 2026
Ken Forber Trophy	Sunday 13th September 2026

Details were shared regarding the progress on the various League Annual General Meetings and Registration dates etc.

The 7 Leagues we compete in are at various stages in terms of communicating start dates and fixtures. We will ensure these are communicated through the Captains and the Club Website in the next few weeks.

We were heavily handicapped in the Aughton League in the 2025 season and expect an increase to this in 2026 given we won the League.

Treasurer's Report

Copies of the Club's accounts were shared and Geoff walked through the highlights. The headline was around a £400 loss across the year. The balance remains at the same level as the 2021 accounts.

Subscriptions/Fees

The membership subscriptions for 2026 will remain as for the previous 2 years - £30 single and £40 joint.

Membership subscriptions should be received by 18th March 2026 please - either direct into the Club's Bank Account (ensure you put your name in the reference) or to a Committee Member. The Social Bowling groups (Tuesday/Wednesday) can sort their membership subscriptions as a group during their first sessions on the green.

The footer fees for competitive games remain at £2.

Election of Officers

The Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman indicated they were OK to stand for another year. This was passed by the AGM attendees.

AOB

Keith Haskayne/Steve Brackley - for the St Helens Pensioners AGM, the Club needed to vote on the proposal to include females in the team of six for the League games. A vote was held at our AGM and was carried by a majority. This will be represented as the Club response at the next League meeting.

Dennis Cowley - wanted to recognise the great individual performances in their respective Club teams in the St Helens Pensioners League of Steve Johnson (2nd in division 1 averages), Steve Brackley (1st in division 3 averages) and Graham Fenney (2nd in division 3 averages).

Paul Melling - wanted the Committee to represent his email as AOB. Paul expressed his disappointment regarding what he feels is a general lack of involvement from members in assisting with various maintenance around the green throughout 2025, with the majority of tasks carried out by the same very small number of people each year. He advises his time maintaining the floodlights over many years has now come to an end and strongly encourages all members to proactively volunteer to help with general maintenance going forward.